

Message Text

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FOL REPEAT OF STATE 100050 TO ANKARA APR 30

QTE:

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REF: ANKARA 3441

FOLLOWING REPEATS STATE 100050 ACTION ATHENS NATO INFO
USNMR SHAPE USDELMC USCINCEUR CINCUSNAVEUR CINCUSAFE
CINCLANT APRIL 29TH

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: MARR, GR, US

SUBJECT: U.S.-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS, PRESS GUIDANCE

1. JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED 12:00 NOON (LOCAL TIME) APRIL
29 AS REGULAR DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE.

2. Q'S AND A'S WERE PREPARED TO RESPOND NEWS INQUIRIES
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AT NOON BRIEFING BUT AS BRIEFING SUBSEQUENTLY CANCELLED

FOR THE DAY IN VIEW OF SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE THEY WERE DRAWN ON IN RESPONDING TO INDIVIDUAL INQUIRIES. Q'S AND A'S FOLLOW:

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY OVERALL COMMENT ON THIS COMMUNIQUE?

A: OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT ON BILATERAL DEFENSE ISSUES HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND CORDIALITY REFLECTING OUR LONG STANDING RELATIONSHIP WITH THAT COUNTRY. WE ARE SATISFIED WITH THE DECISIONS REACHED. THEY WERE MUTUALLY AGREED UPON AND, IN OUR VIEW STRENGTHEN THAT RELATIONSHIP AND INSURE THE CONTINUED VIABILITY OF MUTUAL GREEK-U.S. DEFENSE INTERESTS.

Q: DO YOU ANTICIPATE THE CLOSING DOWN OF OTHER FACILITIES AS THESE TALKS CONTINUE?

A: AS THE COMMUNIQUE NOTES, THE STATUS OF OTHER U.S. FACILITIES IN GREECE WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF FURTHER NEGOTIATION.

Q: IS THERE A DATE SET FOR THE THIRD ROUND?

A: NO. THE TALKS WILL RESUME AT A TIME YET TO BE DETERMINED.

Q: AFTER ALL THE EFFORT TO INITIATE HOMEPORTING ARRANGEMENTS IN GREECE, HOW CAN THE END OF THAT ARRANGEMENT NOW BE VIEWED AS SATISFACTORY OR HAVING NO EFFECT ON THE SECURITY SITUATION?

A: THE HOMEPORTING ARRANGEMENT IN GREECE WAS IMPLEMENTED AS ONLY ONE OF MANY NAVY INITIATIVES TO REDUCE FAMILY SEPARATION FOR NAVY MEN ON SEA DUTY AND ENABLE THE NAVY TO FULFILL ITS NATIONAL COMMITMENTS. NAVY PLANNING WILL REMAIN RESPONSIVE TO OPERATIONAL COMMITMENTS, AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS WHICH IMPINGE ON THOSE PLANS. THE END OF HOMEPORTING, AT THE REQUEST OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, DOES NOT CONSTITUTE ANY LOSS OF OPERATIONAL

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CAPABILITIES BY THE NAVY.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE CLOSING DOWN OF U.S. AIR FORCE OPERATIONS AT HELLENIKON NEAR ATHENS?

A: THE U.S. AIR BASE AT HELLENIKON WILL BE CLOSED. AS STATED IN THE COMMUNIQUE, CERTAIN U.S. FACILITIES THERE WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO MUTUAL DEFENSE NEEDS WILL

CONTINUE TO OPERATE AT HELLENIKON, INCLUDING MUTUAL DEFENSE OPERATIONS FROM THE AIRFIELD.

Q: WHAT SORT OF OPERATIONS ARE YOU REFERRING TO NOW?

A: I WOULD RATHER NOT GET INTO THAT SINCE IT REMAINS A MATTER FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AND NEGOTIATION.

Q: WHAT IS THE REASON FOR HOLDING THESE TALKS?

A: THE TALKS ARE BEING HELD AT THE INVITATION OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT. THIS IS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE NOTE SENT TO US BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE LAST YEAR ASKING TO REVIEW BILATERAL AGREEMENTS CONCERNING THE GREEK-U.S. MUTUAL SECURITY RELATIONSHIP.

Q: WHEN DID THEY BEGIN?

A: THE FIRST ROUND WAS HELD IN ATHENS FEBRUARY 10-14.

THE ROUND WHICH CONCLUDED TODAY (APRIL 29) BEGAN ON APRIL 7.

Q: WHAT OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS?

A: ON THE U.S. SIDE, THE NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVED A SMALL TEAM OF STATE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EXPERTS HEADED BY MONTEAGLE STEARNS, DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION AT OUR EMBASSY IN ATHENS. THE GREEK DELEGATION WAS LED BY AMBASSADOR PETROS CALOGERAS.

Q: DO THESE TALKS INVOLVE ONLY U.S. BASES? WHAT ABOUT THE NATO BASES?

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A: THESE TALKS INVOLVE ONLY U.S.-GREEK BILATERAL MILITARY ISSUES. THE QUESTION OF NATO BASES IS A SEPARATE MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN GREECE AND NATO.

Q: HOW MANY BASES WILL THE UNITED STATES CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN IN GREECE?

A: WE HAVE MAINTAINED FOUR MAJOR INSTALLATIONS IN GREECE: A COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT NEA MAKRI; A PORT AND AIR INSTALLATION AT SOUDA BAY, CRETE; AN AIR FORCE COMMUNICATION FACILITY AT IKRALION, CRETE, AND ATHINAI AIRFIELD NEAR ATHENS. THERE ARE ALSO A NUMBER OF SMALLER FACILITIES. THE COMMUNIQUE INDICATES HOW AND WHAT IS AFFECTED.

Q: WHAT ARE THE VARIOUS FACILITIES USED FOR?

A: THEY ARE USED TO SUPPORT COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS;
ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE ACTIVITIES, NAVIGATIONAL
ASSISTANCE -- THE USUAL ACTIVITIES OF OVERSEAS BASES.

Q: WHEN DO THESE NEW ARRANGEMENTS GO INTO EFFECT?

A: THE DETAILS ON IMPLEMENTING THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE
YET TO BE WORKED OUT.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE RETURN OF DEPENDENTS? WHEN WILL
THAT TAKE PLACE?

A: IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE DEPENDENTS OF THE HOME-
PORTED SHIPS IN ATHENS WILL RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES
BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1975.

Q: WHAT OTHER HOMEPORTING ARRANGEMENTS DOES THE UNITED
STATES HAVE AND WILL THESE BE AFFECTED IN ANY WAY?

A: THE NAVY HAS, IN ADDITION TO ATHENS, A DESTROYER
SQUADRON, AND CARRIER IN THE PACIFIC, ADDITIONALLY THERE
ARE FLEET FLAGSHIPS, COMBAT SUPPORT SHIPS AND TENDERS
HOMEPORTED OVERSEAS. THE ARRANGEMENT REACHED WITH THE
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GREEK GOVERNMENT WILL NOT AFFECT THESE ARRANGEMENTS.

Q: WHAT WILL BE THE EFFECT OF HAVING ALL U.S. FACILITIES
PLACED UNDER GREEK COMMANDERS?

A: WE ANTICIPATE NO DIFFICULTIES. THE UNITED STATES
AND GREECE HAVE A LONG ESTABLISHED TRADITION OF MILITARY
COOPERATION.

Q: HOW MANY U.S. TROOPS AND DEPENDENTS ARE NOW STATIONED
IN GREECE?

A: THERE ARE NOW 5,500 UNIFORMED MILITARY PERSONNEL
STATIONED IN GREECE, ALONG WITH 6,000 DEPENDENTS.

Q: HOW MANY TROOPS AND DEPENDENTS WILL BE AFFECTED BY
THESE NEW ARRANGEMENTS?

A: APPROXIMATELY 3,000 (ABOUT 1,800 MILITARY PERSONNEL
AND ABOUT 1,050 DEPENDENTS) WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE END
OF HOMEPORTING, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW YET WHAT CHANGES WILL
BE MADE AT THE ATHENS AIR BASE BECAUSE THE DETAILS ON

IMPLEMENTING THIS DECISION ARE STILL TO BE WORKEDOUT.

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